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(FBI AND CIA)

(RELEASE AT 11 AM EDT)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- FBI DIRECTOR CLARENCE KELLEY TODAY DEFENDED FBI SURVEILLANCE OF RADICAL GROUPS AS AN "IMPERATIVE" RESPONSE TO THEIR THREATS OF VIOLENCE AND GOAL OF OVERTHROWING THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE.

"TO IGNORE THE EXTREMISTS' THREATS WOULD BE TO GAMBLE RECKLESSLY WITH THE LIVES AND FREEDOMS OF THE CITIZENS WE SERVE," KELLEY SAID. "WE WILL NOT DO THAT AS LONG AS DOMESTIC SECURITY RESPONSIBILITY IS VESTED IN THE FBI.

"IT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE THAT WE GATHER SUFFICIENT INFORMATION AND EVIDENCE TO PERMIT RELIABLE EVALUATIONS OF THESE GROUPS' AIMS AND METHODS," HE SAID.

KELLEY, DISCUSSING THE FBI'S DOMESTIC SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES IN AN ADDRESS PREPARED FOR A VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS CONFERENCE, SAID THERE WERE 2,041 ACTUAL AND ATTEMPTED BOMBINGS LAST YEAR. 24 PERSONS WERE KILLED AND 206 INJURED.

"WE DARE NOT SPECULATE AS TO WHETHER THEY REALLY MEAN IT OR WHETHER IT IS MERE RHETORIC WHEN MILITANT GROUPS THREATEN TO BOMB AND DESTROY PUBLIC AND INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES," KELLEY SAID. 3/10/75

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